



ACADEMIES AND THE DofE

Developing young people's skills for life and work

Together we can transform young people's lives

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Charity that has been working with young people from all backgrounds for more than half a century. We want to work with academies and schools across England to give more young people the chance to do their DofE and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

The DofE is the nationally and internationally recognised Award favoured by employers and universities alike. Over time, we build confidence, dedication and commitment, attributes we all want to see in our young people in school, life and in the workplace.

Building a brighter future for young people

It's a tough time to be a young person in the UK right now.

Across the country, many are held back by a lack of confidence or experience, and a poverty of ambition. At the most critical stage of life's journey, young people need some help in making positive decisions. That's where the DofE comes in.

We are working with young people in every community and from every walk of life to provide a solution.

From housing associations to young mums groups, youth centres to secondary schools and academies, young offender institutions to police cadets, we work with more than 280,000 young people (14-25 years) giving them the confidence and key skills employers are crying out for.

Employers tell us they are looking for young people who have achieved a DofE Award when they recruit.

We know the DofE improves employability, which is why many employers put their young talent, including apprentices and graduates through their DofE programme as part of their development. Doing a DofE programme improves behaviour,

attitude, social skills and confidence in a young person.

Students feel the benefit of achieving their DofE Award for the rest of their lives.

It provides a prestigious certificate recognising their achievement and an improved chance of getting into university, college or a job. It gives them the opportunity to create their own individual learning programme and a chance to explore new and unfamiliar environments. They develop personal skills including time management, problem solving and initiative. It also improves their interpersonal skills and gives them friendships for life. Besides that, it's fun!

This is your chance to shape the future of the UK.

The DofE's Guiding Principles are in line with schools' and academies' missions and PSHE programmes. We will help you establish a DofE group so you can give your students the chance to do their own DofE programme.

You will nurture young people's relationship with their community through the Volunteering section of the DofE as well as build the skills base that UK PLC needs for a brighter and more successful future.



Our research with Gold Award holders shows that:

85% believed doing their DofE had improved their confidence.

79% learnt to work as a team leader.

83% felt they learnt to work with different types of people through their programme.

61% of Gold Award holders still volunteer after achieving their Award.



“The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a key part of our strategy as a new Academy to develop a ‘can do’ culture in Freebrough.

The opportunities offered to our students are an essential part of the curriculum. Students bring the skills and qualities they learn as part of their programme back into school and apply them in lessons and in improving the school community.

We are proud to be part of the Redcar and Cleveland Partnership in delivering the DofE to our students.”

Linda Halbert
Principal, Freebrough Academy

Leeds West Academy

Becoming a new Academy gave staff the opportunity to resource new initiatives through a range of financial start-up grants. These provide enough equipment to allow students to participate in expeditions with adequate kit no matter what their financial background. Currently, 77 students are doing their DofE programme and this summer six students spent a month in Namibia carrying out community work and their Gold expedition.



“The DofE is central to the Academy’s drive to develop the leadership skills of students as well as being a vehicle to develop their wider skills to their potential.”

Annette Hall, Principal,
Leeds West Academy

The David Young Academy

The DofE was first offered as an optional subject. It has gone so well at DYCA, it’s now offered to three whole year groups as a full day option. It promotes teamwork, leadership and communication and has been highly successful in improving confidence, self-esteem and attendance at school.



Vice Principal, Mr Moon, said:

“The students who take part in the DofE benefit on a whole variety of levels. The opportunity to experience the great outdoors and continue what is learned through the programme into future life. To work as a team and operate under pressure enables our students to grow as individuals’.

Manchester Academy

Manchester Academy began offering the DofE in 2008 and is a Directly Licenced Centre. The DofE is now more popular than ever there with students from years 10 through to sixth form.



“The recent DofE presentation evening was a testament to the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm that students and staff have put into achieving their Awards. I was privileged to watch over 60 students receive their certificates. The presentation reflected the fun, the challenges and the team spirit that the DofE engenders.”

David Bromfield, Principal,
Manchester Academy

The DofE counts towards ‘out of hours’ learning



The DofE is a personal achievement award for young people aged 14-25. It’s available at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Participants undertake activities for a set period of time in each of four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition – with a fifth section, Residential, for those going for Gold.

“I will remember these days for the rest of my life.”

Nashad Sharif, DofE participant,
Manchester Academy

“The DofE is a fantastic life achievement and looks good to a future employer.”

Parent, Leeds West Academy

See www.DofE.org/feedback for contact details